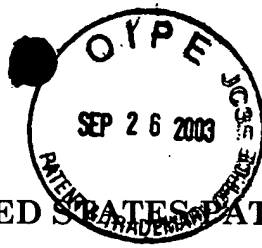


Serial No. 09/780,804



PATENT
2048-039 (81841.0183)

O. Lawrence
#9/a
10.3.03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

David L. GOODALE, et al.

Serial No: 09/780,804

Filed: February 9, 2001

For: LATCH SYSTEM AND MODIFIED
BLADE DESIGN FOR THICK
STOPPER-CLOSED CONTAINER
SAMPLING PIERCING STATION

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Elizabeth Quan

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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P.O. Box 1450
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September 22, 2003
Date of Deposit
Wei-Ning Wang, Reg. No. 38,690
Name
Signature *[Signature]* 09/22/2003
Date

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2003 the time for response to which is extended three months by the accompanying petition from June 27, 2003 to September 27, 2003, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 3 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 18 of this paper.